

Housing and Environment Program  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS  
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,  
And EXTENSION SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

Newsletter 2007-1

CONTAINS DATED INFORMATION-PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

This newsletter is transmitted electronically each quarter from Joseph L. Wysocki, National Program Leader, Indoor Environment, CSREES, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is intended for Cooperative Extension System educators and researchers working with housing and environment programs. A copy is also transmitted to Administrators of Family and Consumer Science Programs, 1890 Institutions, and Tuskegee University.

---

**In This Issue**

**CSREES**

- Joseph Wysocki Changes Units
- eXtension Names 10 New Communities of Practice

**Education/Extension/Research**

- Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes
- Healthy Homes
- EDEN - New Officers

## **Partners**

- The Other Two Joe's
- Kudos to Reichel and Neimeyer
- Welcome Dr. Lee, University of Florida

## **Resources**

- Children's Environmental Health: 2006 Report
- AHAM Publication
- New Mexico Home Buyer Web site
- Georgia Manufactured Housing Education
- Introduction to Housing Web site

## **Opportunities**

- Calendar
- Sustainable Living Position

## **In Closing**

## **CSREES**

Joseph Wysocki became the national program leader for Housing and Environments in October 2006, changing administrative units from Families, 4-H and Nutrition to the Plant and Animal Systems unit, Processing, Engineering, and Technology section.

The programs continuing in his new unit are all E's: Environmental Health and Safety, including Healthy Homes and Indoor Air Quality; Extension Disaster Education Network; Energy for the Home; and Economics of Housing.

In addition, a program will be added, working with Brad Rein, Karen Hunter, and Agrability.

Office location, e-mail, phone, and fax numbers remain the same.

This will not change the relationships with Housing and Environment program contracts in the states, but will enhance them with increased program support and opportunities.

## **eXtension Names 10 new Communities of Practice**

Ten new Communities of Practice (COP) have Joined eXtension, a 24/7/365 Internet-based portal to the nation's largest educational and information system. The new COPs are:

Beef Cattle Clearing House;  
Family Caregiving; Caring for the Aged and/or Disabled  
Adults;  
Youth Literacy in Science, Engineering, and Technology;  
Pork Information Group;  
eOrganic;  
US DAIReXNET;  
Corn and Soybean Production;  
Urban Integrated Pest Management;  
Map@Syst: Geospatial Solutions for Rural and Community  
Sustainability; and  
Diversity Across Higher Education.

These newly funded COPs join eight Pioneer Communities of Practice, named in September 2005:

Building Local Economics of the Future;  
Consumer Horticulture;  
Extension Disaster Education Network;  
HorseQuest;  
Financial Security for All;  
Imported Fire Ant Management;  
Just In Time Parenting; and  
Wildlife Damage Management.

There are now 19 eXtension Communities of Practice.

## Education/Extension/Research

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes  
"Ten Years of Hard Work so You Can Breathe Easy," is a report covering the accomplishments of the Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes Program, from 1995-2005. Released by Montana State University, the 28-page report includes a history of the project, impacts and state highlights, and a list of materials and partners.

Contact Barbara Allen or Michael Vozel, at Montana State University, to obtain a copy.

### Healthy Homes

As of January 10, I have received 30 proposals from states for Healthy Homes grants for FY 2007. We are processing these proposals and expect to award the funds early in this year.

In order to fund as many of the proposals as possible, we will reduce the funding requests by 10 percent.

A reminder: We will hold a Healthy Homes program managers track and training session during the Priester Conference,

April 10-12, 2007, in Kansas City, MO. All program managers are to attend.

The Healthy Homes Partnership National Office at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) facilitates state level-projects by developing educational materials, producing the "Help Yourself to a Healthy Home" book, and an interactive [Web site](#).

Since the national coordination of the Healthy Homes Partnership moved to ACES last year, the ACES Communications Staff has developed a Healthy Homes Partnership Exhibit. This exhibit has been displayed at several national conferences and reproductions have been given to state partners in Minnesota, Michigan, Delaware, Kansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

ACES Communications is updating and preparing the "Help Yourself to a Healthy Home" books in English, Spanish, and other languages including Hmong, Bosnian, Vietnamese, and Arabic for mass production and distribution. ACES Communications estimates it will distribute 30,000 copies in the next year.

The ACES Computer Technology team updated and developed the Healthy Homes Partnership Web site. "Help Yourself to a Healthy Home" books will be available through the partnership Web site and ACES Communications, via the Auburn University AU Marketplace automatic product ordering system. This is the first use of this technology by ACES.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2006 (January-June), nearly 20,000 consumers received training through conferences or workshops, and nearly 1,000 professionals (health care, homebuilders, and others who work in a professional capacities) were trained in healthy homes practices.

#### **EDEN - New Officers**

New Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) officers are:

- Becky Koch, North Dakota State University, chair;
- Dave Filson, Penn State, chair-elect;
- Virginia Morgan, Auburn, secretary;
- Ed Jones, North Carolina State University, past chair;
- Rick Atterberry, University of Missouri, information clearinghouse chair;
- Eric Evans, University of Missouri, professional development chair;
- Linda Williams, Montana State University, marketing chair;

- Wayne Nishijima, University of Hawaii, annual meeting chair;
- 1890s representative not yet named;
- Joe Wysocki and Bill Hoffman, CSREES liaisons; and
- Larry Arrington, University of Florida–ECOP liaison.

Visit the [EDEN Web site](#) for more information, or contact Becky Koch, director of agriculture communication, at: Morrill 5, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105-5655, telephone (701) 231-7875, fax (701) 231-7044., or e-mail [becky.koch@ndsu.edu](mailto:becky.koch@ndsu.edu).

## Partners

### The Other Two Joe's

It's rare, in fact a first, that there is news to report about the three Joe's, but here is some news about the other two Joe's.

**Joseph Laquatra**, the Hazel E. Reed Human Ecology Extension Professor in Family Policy and extension housing specialist at Cornell University, is the first recipient of the Outstanding Engagement Award from the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) Board of Human Sciences. He received the award at the NASULGC meeting in Houston, TX, November 12-14, 2006.

The award recognizes a faculty member "for exceptional creativity and scholarship in the development, application and evaluation of outreach, extension and public service programs."

**Joseph Ponessa**, professor and extension housing specialist at Rutgers University, retired October 1, 2006, after 25 years for dedicated service. Here are a few lines from a poem written about Joe and read at his retirement celebration:

"Radon and asthma interested you, indoor air quality, and mold and energy savings too..."

"Getting grants for Extension programs from USDA, HUD, DOE and EPA was your forte,

"Your curriculum topics ranged far and wide, cockroach control, lead and housing's expensive side,

"You now have more time for your grandchildren and Joan, your loving wife,

"Good luck, good health and have a great life!"

Joe will continue to consult part-time in retirement, and can be reached at 215 Locust Street, Morristown, NJ 08057

Join me in congratulating both Joe's on their recent achievements and wishing them much success in the future.

### **Kudos to Reichel and Neimeyer**

**Shirley Neimeyer**, professor and extension housing specialist at the University of Nebraska, received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the work and service at the recent Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) annual meeting at Cornell University.

At the same meeting, the HERA members voted unanimously to award **Claudette Reichel**, professor and extension housing specialist from Louisiana State University, HERA's first "Housing Impact Award" in recognition of the work she has done following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including LaHouse. Claudette received her award in Baton Rouge, LA, on November 29, 2006, at the Southern Region DOE/NASULGC Building Sciences meeting.

Both Shirley and Claudette have done much through their programs to strengthen and demonstrate the need for housing education.

**Welcome, Dr. Hyun-Jeong Lee**, Dr. Lee, an assistant professor and extension housing specialist, is a new faculty member in the Family, Youth and Community Sciences Department at the University of Florida. She began her appointment September 1, 2006. Dr. Lee has a bachelor's degree in architecture and a doctorate in housing from Virginia Tech.

Contact Dr. Lee at 3008 McCarty Hall D, P.O. Box 11310, Gainesville, FL 32611-0310, phone (352) 392-1778 Ext. 281, fax (352) 392-8196, or e-mail to [leehj@ufl.edu](mailto:leehj@ufl.edu).

### **Resources**

#### **Children's Environmental Health - 2006 Report**

This 20-page annual report highlights the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to improve the environments where children live, learn, and play. The report discusses recent projects to improve school environments, address indoor and outdoor air quality, and reduce exposures to chemicals and pesticides. The report also highlights research, regulatory and data development work, as well as efforts to protect children from over response to the sun, to train healthcare providers, and to provide international

leadership. The Radon Education Program at the University of Georgia's College of Family and Consumer Sciences is listed as one of the 2006 Excellence Award Winners.

The report (Pub. No. EPA 100-F-06-011) is available from the Child and Aging Healthy Protection Division, at EPA. Pub. No. EPA 100-F-06-011. Visit [www.epa.gov/children](http://www.epa.gov/children) for more information.

#### **AHAM Reprints**

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) has reprinted three of their most popular free-of-charge safety brochures, "Helpful Hints for Using Your Clothes Dryer Safely and Effectively," "Recipe for Safe Cooking," and "10 Tips for Use and Care of your Portable Air Heater." Brochures are available at no cost; however, if you would like more than 250 total brochures, you must pay shipping charges. Order these brochures online at [www.aham.org/firesafety](http://www.aham.org/firesafety).

#### **New Mexico Home Buyers Web site**

David O'Brien, New Mexico State University, has developed an online homebuyer education program. The site, <http://www.nmhomeofmyown.com/welcome.html>, includes information on home safety, conservation, and environmental and accessible design in the "Maintaining the Home" module. the program is copyrighted, but may be copied for your own or family's personal use.

#### **Georgia Manufactured Housing Education**

The University of Georgia's College of Family and Consumer Sciences has developed a manufactured housing curriculum.

The three-part Manufactured Housing curriculum includes:

- Background Information;
- PowerPoints and Script/notes; and
- Consumer Checklists and Factsheet)

For information, visit [http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/housing/mh\\_ed.php](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/housing/mh_ed.php)

#### **Introduction to Housing Website**

The HERA textbook, Introduction to Housing, is available at [www.prenhall.com/hera](http://www.prenhall.com/hera) and includes learning objectives, test questions, student activities, and additional resources.

## Opportunities Calendar

MEETING	DATE/PLACE	CONTACT
Children's Environmental Health Research	January 22-23, 2007 Research Triangle Park, NC	Kris Thayer 919-541-5021
Agricultural Outlook Forum	March 1-3, 2007 Arlington, VA	<a href="http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum">www.usda.gov/oce/forum</a>
Priester Health Conference	April 10-12, 2007 Kansas City, MO	Gail Carlson carlsonga@health.missouri.edu
North Central Housing Specialist Meeting	April 9-10, 2007 Kansas City, MO	Mike Goldschmidt goldschmidt@missouri.edu
Housing Education Meeting (HERA)	October 24-27, 2007 Charlotte, NC	<a href="http://www.housingeducators.org">www.housingeducators.org</a>
Extension Disaster Education Network Meeting (EDEN)	November 5-8, 2007 Milo, Hawaii	<a href="mailto:wayneen@hawaii.edu">wayneen@hawaii.edu</a>

### Sustainable Living Position

The Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University, invites applications for the position of Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Sustainable Living. This is a tenure-track, full-time (12-month) appointment based in Logan, UT. Assignment of effort will be 75 percent for extension and associated scholarship/creative activity and 25 percent for teaching. The position is open and should be filled no later than August 2007.

Sustainable Living refers broadly to the theory and practice of making choices that enable people to lead lives that are fulfilling, productive, and environmentally responsible. The main focus area that is highly desired for this position is energy conservation. Ancillary focus areas can include water conservation, socio-economic aspects of green technology, green consumerism, sustainable landscapes, etc. Responsibilities will include directorship of the Utah House, a model residential facility where conservation technology and practice is demonstrated (<http://www.extension.usu.edu/cooperative/utahhouse/>). To apply, see <http://jobs.usu.edu>. E-mail questions and inquiries to Dr. D. Layne Coppock, chair of the Sustainable Living Search Committee, at [Lcoppock@cc.usu.edu](mailto:Lcoppock@cc.usu.edu), or phone (435) 797-1262.

## In Closing

Fall was a very busy and full for me, especially regarding travel. Fall started with a trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to attend the Southern Region Program Leaders Meeting, where we discussed extension's role in disaster education. In October, I attended HERA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting at Cornell University, where I was privileged to open the meeting with a keynote address on the history of HERA.

I then spoke at and attended the annual Association for Home Equipment Educators meeting in New Bern, NC, followed by the EDEN annual meeting in Nashville, TN. I traveled to the Agrability annual meeting in Jackson, MS, and, most recently, the NASULGC/DOE workshop in Baton Rouge, LA.

It was a pleasure to see many of you, several times, at these meetings. Due to budget cuts regarding travel, I have just about completed all the travel I can do for FY 2007 except for the Priester Health conference in April.

I would also like to introduce two of the people who will be working with me in my new unit. Wanda Best is program specialist and helps me with this newsletter and proposals. She also plans to attend the Priester conference in April.

Lauren Caulfield is office automation assistant and handles my travel, mailings, and general support. Their phone numbers and contact information are at end of this newsletter. Best wishes for a fulfilling and successful New Year!

For information about indoor environment programs:

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes:

<http://www.healthyindoorair.org>

Healthy Homes: <http://www.healthyhomespartnership.net>

Energy Star Homes: <http://www.energyextension.com>

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN):

<http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden>

For Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes\*:

Dr. Michael P. Vogel

Ms. Barbara Allen

Montana State University Extension

For Healthy Homes:

Mr. Patrick Kennealy

Auburn University

\*See Web sites for phone, fax, e-mail, and address.

Dr. Joseph L. Wysocki, National Program Leader for Housing and Indoor Environments, 202-401-4980 or [jwysocki@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:jwysocki@csrees.usda.gov) To learn about CSREES, visit [www.csrees.usda.gov](http://www.csrees.usda.gov) The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well being, and communities. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer, 11-2006

Wanda Best, LDN, Program Specialist, 202-401-3357 or [wbest@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:wbest@csrees.usda.gov)

Lauren Caulfield, Office Automation Assistant, 202-401-4929 or [lcaulfield@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:lcaulfield@csrees.usda.gov)